

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:545
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
PRODUCTIVITY OF COTTON
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether productivity of cotton in India is very low in comparison to the quality and quantity of yield per hectare in leading cotton producing countries;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to reach world levels in cotton production?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 545 DUE FOR REPLY ON 14TH MAY, 2007.

(a)&(b): As per the estimates of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) published in 'Cotton This Month' of 1st May, 2007, India ranks first in area under cotton and third in production in the world. But productivity of cotton in India is lower than the world average and that of the leading cotton producing countries.

The productivity of cotton in India is low due to the reasons that about 66% area under cotton is rainfed. The crop is also prone to pests and diseases apart from use of poor quality seeds by the farmers.

(c): To improve productivity, production and quality of cotton, a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) was launched in February, 2000. Under this Mission, financial assistance is provided by the Government for development of varieties and production technologies suited to various agro-climatic conditions of the country, production and distribution of certified/hybrid seeds, transfer of technology through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers, Integrated Pest Management, Insecticide Resistance Management, supply of sprayers, sprinklers, drip irrigation systems, development of marketing infrastructure and upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton.